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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

1 NOVEMBER 2016

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Santa Rosa Island -California Island Closed to Search for Drug Smugglers

(U) The National Park Service has closed Santa Rosa Island off the Southern California coast after numerous bundles of marijuana were found there last week. Officials believe the drug discovery is linked to a maritime smuggling attempt. Authorities didn't say exactly how much marijuana was found, or who found it. The park service has yet to schedule a reopening date.

SOURCE: 31 October 2016, Fox News

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia –46 States Request Cyber Help During Election

(U) Washington – All but four states have now asked the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for assistance shoring up their election systems against cyber threats, according to a senior DHS official. Earlier in October, 33 states and 11 county or local election agencies had requested the help offered by DHS. DHS has urged states to take advantage of its resources, which include scanning systems for vulnerabilities and recommendations for improving cybersecurity on election and voter registration systems. More than 20 states have experienced attempts to hack into their voter registration databases or other election-affiliated systems.

SOURCE: 31 October 2016, CNN

(U) Washington - Eight Children Hospitalized for Possible Rare Nervous System Disorder

(U) Seattle – Federal and state health officials are investigating a possible cluster of a rare nervous system disorder after eight children reported symptoms, including weakness or loss of movement in one or more limbs. Eight children in Washington State were hospitalized recently for symptoms that matched a rare condition called acute flaccid myleititis (AFM), a condition that affects the nervous system, specifically the spinal cord, and can occur due to various causes, including the polio virus. Three of the children remain hospitalized and five have been released, according to the state health department.

SOURCE: 31 October 2016 2016, ABC News

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Nigeria – Militant Group Threatens More Attacks if Army Campaign Continues

(U) Lagos – A Nigerian militant group threatened yesterday to step up attacks on oil facilities in the Niger Delta if the president pursues a military campaign, casting a shadow over peace talks between the government and groups due to start today. President Muhammadu Buhari is due to meet with leaders of the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) and representatives of various militant groups. Analysts say the NDA are the region's most sophisticated militants and receive help from inside oil firms advising which facility to attack. Buhari ordered a heightened military presence in the restive region in May 2016, which saw the introduction of patrols in remote communities and stoked anger in the last few months.

SOURCE: 31 October 2016, Reuters

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(U) United Kingdom - Czech Human-trafficking Gang Members Sentenced to jail

(U) London – Five members of a gang that trafficked people from eastern Europe to Britain and forced them to live in inhumane conditions while working to pay off fictional debts were sentenced by a British court yesterday. Czech nationals Ruzena Tancosova, Petr Tancos, Nela Dzurkova, Martin Tancos and Katerina Kerujova were found guilty of human trafficking and slavery offences at Plymouth Crown Court on 24 October. Yesterday, a judge handed them sentences ranging from two to six-and-a-half years behind bars. The victims lived in squalid conditions and were forced to work in a car wash and at a meat packing factory to pay off debts their traffickers claimed they owed, according to prosecutors. There are an estimated 13,000 victims of forced labor, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude in Britain. SOURCE: 31 October 2016, Reuters

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico – High-Level Cartel Leader Arrested

(U) Ejido San Jose De Guanajuato – The Mexican navy said it recently captured Rey David Santiago, the alleged leader of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman's Sinaloa cartel in the states of Baja California and Sinaloa. Santiago was captured in Sinaloa's town of Ejido San Jose de Guanajuato last Friday in possession of a handgun and various fake forms of identification, the Mexican navy said in a statement. Mexican marines chased the fleeing suspects and eventually were able to inspect the vehicle, in which marines found a "9mm pistol exclusive for use of the armed forces ... and various apocryphal IDs certifying a false identity." An investigation has been launched and formal criminal charges have not yet been announced.

SOURCE: 31 October 2016, UPI

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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